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**AFGHANISTAN**

## ROAD UPDATE

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### Kandahar-Herat Highway

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which interlinks the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. USAID is funding 326 km of the Kandahar-Herat Highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. The Japanese have stopped heavy construction due to recent security and demining concerns, in which insurgents burned three pieces of the contractor’s equipment. Their security plan is now under review. Small scale work, such as survey and culvert work, continues. The Ministry of Public Works awarded a contract for the Saudi section, pending final review by the Saudi Fund for Development. USAID has committed to providing the demining, security, and assistance in the selection of contractors for the Saudi section as well as oversight of the project works and training of Ministry of Public Works personnel.

Along the US portion, in Section 3 (Km 231-356) demining operations are nearly complete. The pavement of base course continues and 18% of the first layer of asphalt has been paved along with 6% of the second layer of asphalt. In Section 4 (Km 356-456), excavation, embankment, and base-course work continues and 30% of the first layer of asphalt has been placed. Also, 28% of the second layer of asphalt has been placed. Culvert and bridge work continues. In Section 5 (Km 456-557), camp construction is complete with the full operations staff on the site. Excavation and embankment works are on-going. Rubblizing and aggregate base placement are continuing with 10% of the aggregate complete and asphalt paving will begin soon.

USAID incorporates capacity-building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase the participation and commitment of Afghans. Afghans assisting on the road effort gain valuable skills, enabling them to eventually maintain their roads. During this period, 73% of the project’s employees were Afghan nationals.



Compacting of shoulder subgrade, Section 5



Engineer trains local Afghans on culvert construction in Section 4



#### Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections

- Japanese Section
- Saudi Section
- US Section 3
- US Section 4
- US Section 5



Afghans laying framework for Section 4 causeway

#### Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow



## Secondary Roads Highlights

Nationwide demonstrations shut down several secondary road projects and part of the Ring Road reconstruction.

Secondary Road	Progress to date
Kabul-Gardez Road (122km)	Nearly 50km of base course has been paved; asphalt wearing course paving continues per the new pavement design.
Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35km)	6.3 km of embankment work complete and 17km of excavation work complete; sub-base and culvert work continues.
Jalalabad-Asmar Road (122km)	Sub-base work and demining continues, with the rate of progress increasing.
Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148km)	Crushed aggregate base and DBST paving ongoing in the US Army Section (km 20-148); paving continues on the UNOPS section.
Panjsher Road (69.2km)	Culvert work continues. Road serves as training program for Ministry of Public Works (MPW) staff.
District Roads	Work continues in over 12 district centers.
Urban Roads	US Embassy bypass road (Shash Darak) is complete and ready for an opening ceremony. A contractor has been selected for Bibi Mahro Road and the contract will be awarded soon. Ground-breaking being planned.
Sheberghan to Sari Pul Road (54km)	Demining nearly complete. Sub-grade, embankment, and culvert work continues.
Farah-Ring Road (70km)	In early stages of staffing and planning; demining has commenced. Road will serve as training program for MPW staff.
Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49km)	Camp construction on-going. Demining, equipment mobilization, and rough grading has commenced.
Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5km)	Camp construction, demining, and earthworks are in progress.



Culvert work on Km1 of Pul-e-Alam to Ring Road



Culvert work on Km12 of Pul-e-Alam to Ring Road



Road clearing on the Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road

## Road-Related Security Incidents

On May 19 in Farah, security guards for Section 3 of the Kandahar-Herat highway were attacked while guarding construction equipment near the quarry. A fire fight ensued, but resulted in no injuries or casualties.

As noted above, nationwide demonstrations in mid-May shut down several secondary road projects and part of the Ring Road reconstruction.

Indicator (Hostile Attacks)	This Reporting Period	Cumulative Total FY05
Persons Kidnapped/Released	0/0	3/2
Persons Injured/Killed	0/0	5/8
Other Hostile Attacks	1	32